

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A lancet comprising a lancet body provided with a lancing element, and a casing including a space extending throughout the casing for retaining the lancet body therein,

wherein the lancet body is fixed to the casing when an external force exceeding a predetermined level in a particular direction is not applied to the casing, whereas the lancet body becomes movable relative to the casing when an external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing, and

wherein the particular direction crosses an axial direction of the casing, and the particular direction is directed from an outside of the casing toward an inside of the casing, the axial direction of the casing being parallel to an advancing direction of the lancing element.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The lancet according to claim 1, wherein the casing has a cross-sectional shape which changes when the external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing; and

wherein the lancet body becomes movable relative to the casing when the cross-sectional shape of the casing is changed.

4. (Original) The lancet according to claim 3, wherein the casing includes a contact portion which comes into contact with the lancet body when the external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is not applied to the casing; and

wherein a gap is defined between the contact portion and the lancet body when the cross-sectional shape of the casing is changed.

5. (Original) The lancet according to claim 4, wherein the contact portion comprises a projection.

6. (Original) The lancet according to claim 4, wherein the contact portion comprises a recess, and

wherein the lancet body is provided with a projection for coming into engagement with the recess.

7. (Original) The lancet according to claim 4, wherein an outer diameter of the casing at a portion where the contact portion is not provided is larger than an outer diameter of the casing at a portion where the contact portion is provided.

8. (Original) The lancet according to claim 1, wherein the casing is formed with a projection for actively causing the external force in the particular direction to be applied to the casing.

9. (Original) The lancet according to claim 3, wherein the casing is formed with an opening for allowing the cross-sectional shape of the casing to change when the external force in the particular direction is applied.

10. (Original) The lancet according to claim 9, wherein the opening comprises a cutout or a slit.

11. (Original) The lancet according to claim 3, wherein, after the cross-sectional shape of the casing is changed, the cross-sectional shape returns to an original shape when the application of the external force to the casing in the particular direction is removed.

12. (Original) The lancet according to claim 1, further comprising a lid for selectively opening or closing an upper opening of the casing.

13. (Original) The lancet according to claim 12, wherein the lid is attached to the casing.

14. (Original) The lancet according to claim 12, wherein, when the lid closes the upper opening of the casing, the external force exceeding the predetermined level in

the particular direction is applied to the casing to change the cross-sectional shape of the casing; and

wherein the lancet body becomes movable relative to the casing when the cross-sectional shape of the casing is changed.

15. (Original) The lancet according to claim 14, wherein the casing is formed with an opening for allowing the cross-sectional shape of the casing to change when the external force in the particular direction is applied; and

wherein the lid includes an operative portion which comes into engagement with the opening and applies the external force in the particular direction to the casing when the lid closes the upper opening.

16. (Original) The lancet according to claim 14, wherein the casing includes a stopper portion for preventing the lancet body from dropping through a lower opening of the casing when the lancet body is movable relative to the casing.

17. (Original) The lancet according to claim 13, further comprising a fixer for fixing the lid to the casing when the upper opening is closed by the lid.

18. (Original) The lancet according to claim 17, wherein the fixer comprises a projection provided at one of the lid and the casing, and a hook provided at the other one of the lid and the casing for engagement with the projection.

19. (Original) The lancet according to claim 1, wherein the casing holds an analytical tool for analyzing a particular component contained in body fluid extracted from a lancing target portion.

20. (Original) The lancet according to claim 19, wherein the analytical tool includes a capillary for moving blood by capillary force, a through-hole for allowing movement of the lancing element, and an introduction port which communicates with the through-hole for introducing blood to the capillary.

21. (Original) The lancet according to claim 14, wherein the lid holds an analytical tool for analyzing a particular component contained in body fluid extracted from a lancing target portion.

22. (Original) The lancet according to claim 21, wherein the analytical tool includes a capillary for moving blood by capillary force, a through-hole for allowing movement of the lancing element, and an introduction port communicating with the through-hole for introducing blood to the capillary.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A lancing apparatus used with a lancet attached to the lancing apparatus,

wherein the lancet includes a lancet body provided with a lancing element, and a casing formed with a space extending throughout the casing for retaining the lancet body therein, the lancet body being fixed to the casing when an external force exceeding a predetermined level in a particular direction is not applied to the casing, the lancet body being movable relative to the casing when an external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing,

wherein the lancing apparatus is configured to apply an external force to the casing to make the lancet body movable relative to the casing when the lancet is attached, and

wherein the particular direction crosses an axial direction of the casing, and the particular direction is directed from an outside of the casing toward an inside of the casing, the axial direction of the casing being parallel to an advancing direction of the lancing element.

24. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 23, comprising an operative portion for coming into engagement with the casing to apply the external force to the casing.

25. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the casing of the lancet is formed with a projection for actively causing the external force in the particular direction to be exerted to the casing,

wherein the operative portion is configured to come into engagement with the projection to apply the external force to the casing when the lancet is attached.

26. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the casing of the lancet is formed with an opening for allowing a cross-sectional shape of the casing to change when the external force in the particular direction is applied to the casing,

wherein the operative portion is configured to come into engagement with the opening to change the cross-sectional shape of the casing when the lancet is attached to the lancing apparatus.

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A lancing apparatus used with a lancet attached to the lancing apparatus,

wherein the lancet comprises a lancet body provided with a lancing element, a casing formed with a space extending throughout the casing for retaining the lancet body therein and a lid for closing an upper opening of the casing, the lancet body being fixed to the casing when an external force exceeding a predetermined level in a particular direction is not applied to the casing, the lancet body being movable relative to the casing when an external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing by closing the upper opening by the lid,

wherein the apparatus comprises external force applying means for applying an external force to the lid to close the upper opening by the lid in a state in which the lancet is attached, and

wherein the particular direction crosses an axial direction of the casing, and the particular direction is directed from an outside of the casing toward an inside of the casing, the axial direction of the casing being parallel to an advancing direction of the lancing element.

28. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising an accommodation space for accommodating the lancet,

wherein the external force applying means includes a slider which is reciprocally movable in a direction crossing a direction in which the accommodation space extends in a state in which the lancet is accommodated in the accommodation space, and

wherein the slider includes an engagement portion for coming into engagement with the lid.

29. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the engagement portion is reciprocally movable between a first position directly above the accommodation space and a second position avoiding a position directly above the accommodation space, and wherein the engagement portion, in moving from the second position to the first position, comes into engagement with the lid to apply an external force to the lid to cause the lid to close an upper opening of the casing.

30. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the casing of the lancet includes a stopper portion for preventing the lancet body from dropping through a lower opening of the casing in a state in which the lancet body is movable relative to the casing,

wherein the lancing apparatus further comprises a lancet holder for holding the lancet body,

wherein the lancet holder is movable without interfering with the stopper portion in a state in which the lancet is attached.

31. (Withdrawn) The lancing apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the lancet holder is formed with a recess for avoiding the interference with the stopper portion.

32. (Previously Presented) A lancet comprising:

a lancet body provided with a lancing element; and

a casing including a space extending throughout the casing for retaining the lancet body therein;

wherein the lancet body is fixed to the casing when an external force exceeding a predetermined level in a particular direction is not applied to the casing, whereas the lancet body becomes movable relative to the casing when an external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing,

wherein the casing is formed with an opening for allowing a cross-sectional shape of the casing to change, and

wherein when the external force exceeding the predetermined level in the particular direction is applied to the casing, the opening is deformed so as to change the cross-sectional shape of the casing, thereby causing the lancet body to be movable relative to the casing.

33. (Previously Presented) The lancet according to claim 32, wherein the opening comprises a cutout or a slit.

34. (New) The lancet according to claim 32, wherein when deformed, the opening becomes greater in size as viewed circumferentially of the casing.